

Message Text

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ACTION ITFE-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-01 FDRE-00 OPR-02 A-01

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P R 051207Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9086

AMCONSUL UDORN

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, TH

SUBJECT: QUOTAS FOR REFUGEES IN SEASIA

REF: SINGAPORE EETEV STATE 182456; SINGAPORE 3354

1. APPRECIATE RECEIPT (REFTEL B) OF INTERIM QUOTA OF 2000 FOR THAILAND, BUT IATF SHOULD BE AWARE THAT THIS FIGURE WILL NOT FULLY COVER VIETNAMESE, CAMBODIANS, AND LAO WHO PRESENTLY FALL WITHIN NON-EXPANDED CRITERIA (I.E. FORMER USG EMPLOYEES AND PERSONS WITH IMMEDIATE RELATIVES IN THE US). WE ESTIMATE THAT APPROXIMATELY 3,500 VIETNAMESE, KHMERS AND LAO ALREADY FALL INTO THESE TWO CATEGORIES. WE WILL NEED FURTHER NUMBERS SHORTLY AND WE STILL NEED EXPANDED CRITERIA TO COPE WITH "HIGH-RISK" REFUGEES.

2. CONCERNING LAO REFUGEES, WE WOULD PROPOSE TO BEGIN MOVING MAXIMUM OF 300 LAO, ALL FORMER USG EMPLOYEES, TO UTAPAO CAMP FOR DOCUMENTATION. LIVING CONDITIONS IN AND AROUND NONG KHAI/UDORN MAKE IT IMPERATIVE THAT THESE REFUGEES MOVE SOON. WE THEREFORE NEED INDICATION FROM IATF THAT WE HAVE FORMAL APPROVAL, INCLUDING FISCAL AUTHORITY TO BEGIN MOVING AND PROCESSING LAO. WE ALSO NEED CRITERIA FOR LAO ASAP.

3. GIVEN EXTRAORDINARILY LARGE NUMBERS OF LAO WHO WORKED
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FOR USG SINCE JANUARY 1, 1970 WE RECOMMEND THAT IATF

PROVIDE CAREFULLY WORDED GUIDELINES FOR LAO. PERHAPS A FEB. 22, 1973 CUT OFF DATE SHOULD BE USED (VICE JANUARY 1, 1970) FOR FORMER USG EMPLOYEES TO COINCIDE WITH SIGNING OF VIENTIANE ACCORD. WE ALSO RECOMMEND APRIL 1- AUGUST 1 BE CONSIDERED AS PERIOD DURING WHICH REFUGEES FROM LAOS WOULD HAVE HAD TO HAVE FLED LAOS. (AT SAME TIME DOOR SHOULD BE LEFT AT LEAST PARTIALLY AJAR TO ALLOW LAO WHO STILL WORK FOR AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE TO QUALIFY ON EXCEPTIONAL BASIS FOR PAROLE SHOULD THEY EVENTUALLY APPLY.) WE FURHTER RECOMMEND THAT DEFINITION OF "ACCOMPANYING FAMILY MEMBER" FOR PURPOSE OF PAROLE INTO US BE RESTRICTED TO, IN THE CASE OF THE LAO, SPOUSE, CHILDREN, UNMARRIED SIBLINGS UNDER 21, PARENTS, PARENTS OF SPOUSES, AND GRANDPARENTS, BUT NOT THE SO-CALLED EXTENDED FAMILY.

4. IN INTERIM, WE RECOMMEND THAT EA/LC LAUNCH A MAJOR EFFORT TO LOCATE SPONSORS FOR LAO REFUGEES PERHAPS IN COORDINATION WITH NEWLY FORMED LAO-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION IN WASHINGTON, AS WELL AS WITH IATF AND RELEVANT VOLAGS. LAO REFUGEES WILL NOT BE ABLE TO JOIN REFUGEE FLOW UNTIL THEY HAVE SPONSORS.

5. REQUEST THAT FREEZE ON APPROVALS OF VISA FALCONS SUBMITTED TO DEPARTMENT FROM AMCONSUL UDORN FOR ETHNIC VIETNAMESE FROM LAOS BE LIFTED IMMEDIATELY.
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